



January 28, 2021

Honorable Philip D. Murphy  
Governor  
State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

The Consumer Brands Association requests, upon the latest arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, the State of New Jersey accelerate priority access to COVID-19 vaccines for the state's 32,200 frontline essential workers in the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry. For almost a year, these employees have been working tirelessly to make the products indispensable to pandemic response, such as food, beverages, disinfectants, cleansers, hand sanitizer, toilet paper and personal hygiene products. Products necessary for the basic function of society, critical infrastructure operations and ending the crisis.

This request is consistent with our November 20, 2020 request to New Jersey public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization (CDC ACIP) [Update Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). Today, COVID-19-related absentee rates remain close to 10%, a trend that poses a grave threat to the entire CPG supply chain and the availability of life-sustaining products Americans need to stay home and stay safe.

Unfortunately, New Jersey's vaccination plan is unhelpfully vague. Of significant concern, it is not clear how and when frontline essential workers will be vaccinated. ACIP designated manufacturing and food frontline essential workers as eligible in Phase 1b due to the higher risk of occupational exposure compared to other essential workers. Consumer Brands respectfully requests that New Jersey clarify its vaccination allocation and distribution plan to prioritize the frontline essential workers, including those of the CPG industry, in Phase 1b.

Prioritization for New Jersey's frontline CPG workforce is an essential defense measure to ensure that all essential workers in each critical infrastructure sector are protected and remain healthy and that store shelves stay adequately stocked. We all must do our part to make sure lives of all New Jersey residents quickly return to normal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gruber', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Gruber  
Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs

cc: George Helmy, Chief of Staff

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**Powering every day.**